

TAX SPENDERS
RAISE CITY LEVY

Reformers Increase This Year's Rate Over Last by Three- Quarters of a Mill.

TREASURY DEFICIT OF \$83.512

**This Condition Result of Policy
Of Permitting Expenses to
Exceed the Revenue.**

Mayor Thompson Has in His Pocket a
Report so Bad That He Will Not
Let Public See It.

A meeting of the finance committee of the city council was held last evening at which it was decided to raise the tax levy from 11 to 11½ mills.

Perhaps no better evidence of the utter worthlessness of the many promises of reform, etc., made by the "American" party prior to its coming into power has so far come to light than that contained in the foregoing announcement. No particular excuse is offered except in a general way; "increased expenses" is mentioned vaguely and it is generally felt that "increased expenses" covers the ground about as well as any other words.

THE VARIOUS RATES.

Here is the report which the finance committee will present for ratification

Contingent fund	5	initial
Street	1	initial
Water supply	1	initial
Sewer	1	initial
Library	1	initial
	11%	initial

Various reasons are advanced for the raising of the rate on the various funds, with the exception of the contingent fund. This last is now covered drawn at the National Bank of the Republic in the sum of \$56,957.64, and the

half mill increase in levy will not even wipe out this indebtedness. Under ex-

isting laws no further increase can be made in the rate of taxation for continuing for the purposes without legislative enactment. The committee will understand the rate must remain unchanged until the next regular session. Mention has been made of a petition for the purpose of bringing an extra session of the legislature to order so as to take up the matter and it is to be noted that the fact that a similar petition is not being prepared for the purpose of deciding upon the matter of the proposed college at the University of Utah and the state Agricultural college, this may be done.

A SECRET STATEMENT.

A statement of the city's finances was recently prepared by Auditor Alf Smith, but this is not available to newspapermen. The state law on the matter was revised March 14, 1901, to read: "The city of Salt Lake City, on or before July 1 of each year, shall submit to the voters of the city a proposition to levy a full and complete financial state-

ment must be published for the benefit of the taxpayers. City Auditor Aff does not deny that a recent statement has been placed in the hands of the mayor but evidently does not feel himself under any obligation to make its contents known to the public.

constituting the difference between the amount which can be raised by a

mill street fund levy and the estimated expenses for the year. These are placed at \$289,209.98, the receipts being estimated at \$205,697.64, the deficit being the difference.

ARGUMENTS FOR MORE CASH

The point has been made under the present administration that a city of the population of Salt Lake should have a contingent fund levy of at least 3 mills instead of 2 1/2 mills and

fact that never before has such a rate been deemed necessary apparently

carrying but little weight. Apparently, has also been called to the decrease in rate of expenditure in the engineering department in connection with the construction of the Big Cottonwood conduit under the present administration. That this is the case is admittedly true but it is equally obvious that the preliminary expenditure for engineering services must of necessity be far greater than when

the work has advanced to a point where a single engineer backed by half a dozen inspectors can successfully superintend the entire work.

AN EXPENSIVE CHANGE.

Commencing Jan. 1 clerks have been hired, salaries raised and changes and innovations inaugurated in a manner which could hardly fail to have but one result. Just how thorough this result has been will now be seen.

ly seen.

A. Lewis, recognized as the spokesman of Mr. Dowie, and who was chosen by him to manage the Paradise plantation of Mexico, the rock over which it is alleged the Dowie and Voliva partisans split, had the following to say of the decision:

"If the decree of Judge Landis stands, the Christian Catholic apostolic church of Zion is unrooted. The church is

founded on the theory of a theocracy and how can an election under the laws of Cook county, Ill., proclaim who shall be leader of the hosts. I maintain that

tion Almighty alone can designate who shall be the first apostle. I firmly believe that the Lord has designated John Alexander Dowie to lead the hosts to the paths of light. Therefore when a special election is called the whole fabric of the church is destroyed. If God designates the leader how can man choose him.

"As far as property rights are concerned they matter little to us, the great question is that of spiritual

Dowle himself said that inasmuch as he had not had an opportunity to read the whole decision he would not at this time express an opinion. It was too early.

"We want peace," he said, "but not with dishonor. I prefer that all statements should come from my counsel."